

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 11, 18, 20, 21, and 29 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-29 are pending and under consideration.

Rejection of Claims 1-29 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-29 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 2002/0039508 issued to Tsusaka et al (hereinafter referred to as "Tsusaka"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tsusaka does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "when the first guide side is contacted by the paper coming out of the printing unit, each of the plurality of guide members rotate and balance themselves with a force applied by the paper, and returns to an original position after the paper completely passes through the printing unit," as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that guide 61 in Tsusaka corresponds to the guide members in claims 1 and 29. However, guide 61 rotates by contacting the lever 61A of the guide 61 with a part of the rear tray 64 when the sheet guiding tray 60 is pivoted into a position as shown in Fig. 2 (Paragraphs [0032] and [0053] of Tsusaka). Instead, claim 1 recites "each of the plurality of guide members rotate and balance themselves with a force applied by the paper." The guide members are movable by contacting paper whereas Tsusaka teaches contacting a lever with a part of a rear tray when a sheet guiding tray is pivoted.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Claims 2-28 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 2-28 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Similarly, Tsusaka does not disclose teach or suggest at least, "a flexible guide member having a first guide side, the flexible guide member flexing to guide the recording medium toward the exit path member and balance with itself with the force applied by the recording medium when the recording medium exits the printing unit and contacts the first guide side," as recited in claim 29.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 29 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Summary

Claims 1-29 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

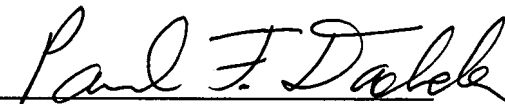
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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